

building COMMUNITY

For Indiana's Third Century

July/August 2003

**building
COMMUNITY**, a bimonthly publication of Indiana 2016, solicits articles from around Indiana that illustrate community-based efforts. Please electronically submit articles to jswenson@gov.state.in.us. Digital photographs are accepted and encouraged.

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Tomorrow's scientists meet challenge

*The Indiana 2016 Task Force Innovations Committee brought together leaders in higher education, industry, government and non-profits to encourage Hoosier youth to set high goals for their education, use their creativity and plan for the future. For a glimpse at one of the committee's projects, read below. **Don't miss the next related event, "Step into the Future" in the Expo Hall of the Indiana State Fair August 6-17!***

by Shea Fletcher

What do you get when you combine 1,500 eggs, an astronaut, 60 college seniors, some dedicated scientists and over 300 Indiana middle school students? An Egg-tastic time!

Based on recommendations by the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. (HASTI), science teachers from all over the state were invited to bring teams of five students to participate.



They assembled at the **Indiana State Fairgrounds** on April 25 with instructions to wear old clothes and be ready to put science to work.

They learned of their task from a distraught King Meringue: save Prince Eggbert! This year's novel approach to the classic egg-drop challenged

students to foil the evil chef, Dr. Breakfast, and rescue the imprisoned Prince Eggbert from certain doom. Between the prince and safety stood Dr. Breakfast's six-foot tower, the two-foot wide "fry zone" of his moat, and the three-

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Gatherings

by Judy O'Bannon



First Lady Judy O'Bannon talks with staff members of the OIL Reach Out program, a peer-education initiative focused on HIV/AIDS prevention among youth, which is based in Cape Town, South Africa. Mrs. O'Bannon led a People to People Ambassador Program delegation from Indiana in March.

“At this time in our history, if we withdraw to the security of our own kind, it is at our own peril.”

Who do we mean when we say “your community?” Traditionally, it’s those around you, be they family, neighbors, fellow club or church members, or even those in your city or state. But, more and more the realization that indeed we do live in a “global living room” is beginning to soak in.

The real-time news broadcasting in Iraq stunned most of us as we sat in our homes and watched military actions as they happened. We were further awakened when we heard hour-by-hour commentary and observations on the impact of these reports on our economy, tourism and national security. We were there, and more importantly, they were here.

This realization of our global community was further intensified with the onset of the disease SARS and its rapid spread. It reminds us of how fluid a world we live in with travelers going every which way, all the time. Truly, physical boundaries in our world continue to fade.

What does this all mean? A whole lot that we already know, and for sure a great deal we have yet to know. One thing for sure – we are not alone for better or for worse. We are all connected and this demands that we connect with those in the global living room, for we are truly neighbors. At this time in our history, if we withdraw to the security of our own kind, it is at our own peril.

All this is a good reminder that here at home in our own backyards, we are often separated. Do we really know the people across the street or across town? What are their stories? How do they see the immediate community we live in? What are their dreams for this community in 2016? How do they feel they should or can achieve this vision? Do we share the same vision?

Amid all of this, we must step forward in our immediate communities and forge understanding and appreciation for each other. How else are we going to be able to reach out to the greater opportunities and conditions in the world around us? And, as we so often say, it is in the doing of things together that we become a community.

So look around, see an opportunity and jump in. The world is waiting for you to make it a good place to live. It is no stretch to say as we take our steps into a new venture, we are as Neil Armstrong when he first stepped onto the moon. What he said applies to us today. “That’s one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.”

In the global community, what you do ripples outward just as actions around the world ripple into you and your hometown. What ripples are you making?



“WE ARE GOING TO DO THIS – **TOGETHER**”⁹⁹

“Together!” Communities are built on the premise that together we can accomplish our dreams. But, what does it mean to be part of the *global community*? This March a group of Hoosier leaders, led by First Lady Judy O’Bannon as part of a People To People Ambassador Programs trip, traveled to South Africa to find out. The trip, a follow-up to a similar journey in the fall of 2001, was designed to expand and further develop collaborations between the two peoples. Our group included Hoosiers from across the state who are active members of their communities—through the arts, community foundations, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, literacy programs, health services, non-profit marketing groups, and community volunteering, these leaders are building stronger communities in Indiana and brought with them a wide variety of expertise and interests.

South Africa, a pulsating, vibrant country, greets visitors with an extraordinary amount of natural beauty; yet, it is the passion and strength of the people that left the strongest impression on each of the 30 Hoosiers who were a part of the delegation. As Pam Acton, executive director of the **Switzerland County** Community Foundation, said, “I am not sure what I expected, but I was surprised at everything. I came away believing that the world is not in as bad a shape as I once believed.”

As we visited organizations that are working to confront the HIV/AIDS epidemic, to revitalize urban parks through the use of the arts, to provide housing and to empower South African youth, we found a contagious energy and determination to strengthen their communities and their nation. There exists a deep commitment to tackling issues and being part of the process. As Tracy Elliott, executive director of the Damien Center in **Indianapolis** recently wrote, “We heard from every person we met a united desire to build a nation that would lead Africa and the world.” It is this commitment that inspires continued collaborations between Hoosiers and South Africans—creating youth art exchanges, modeling a program for at-risk youth on the Chrysalis Academy and providing books and resources to children.

The energy is infectious! There is something so invigorating about working with people who share a common vision for the future. Witnessing this energy spread and impact lives underscored for our delegation a major tenet of community building—relationships and partnerships. It truly does take people working together, overcoming obstacles and being driven by a desire to make the places where they live a little better to build stronger communities for the future. Our delegation experienced that feeling from the South Africans we met and from our fellow Hoosier leaders. As Kim Miller, Program Coordinator for Campus Compact’s “Indiana Reads,” stated, “On that last night, standing up and looking around the room, I realize what incredible people I was surrounded by—and knew that we were all just getting started. . . I knew that the responsibility was now on us to help facilitate and participate in nation building with all of our neighbors. . .”

We are all part of this “global community,” and it is up to us to decide how it will develop and be built. New relationships were formed during our journey, between Hoosier leaders and between Hoosiers and South Africans. And hopefully, these relationships will lead to increased collaborations and sharing of ideas that will build a stronger Indiana and a stronger global community.

*-Susannah George,
Director,
OIL Reach Out,
South Africa*

*by Katy Brett,
Delegation Member*



South African children smile for the camera in Ivory Park during a Habitat for Humanity build.



Members of the delegation mix cement at a Habitat for Humanity build site in Ivory Park, near Johannesburg.



Students at Christel House South Africa perform a dance during an after-school convocation.

YOU CAN DIG IT

by Amy Johnson, DNR

To most of us, archaeology conjures up visions of exotic locales and treasures. But did you know that over 50,000 archaeological sites have been recorded right here in Indiana? The DNR's Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA) archaeologists help preserve information from those sites.

Today, sites studied span 11,500 years and may include African-American settlements, canals, Native American sites, earthworks, and more. In fact, a unique site in central Indiana is uncovering evidence of a culture from 600-800 years ago that is known only in Indiana.

Sites dating before 1816 in Indiana are protected by law, and state and federal funds allow investigation and preservation of sites.

Archaeology is a wonderful way to learn about the past. You can participate! For information, contact the DHPA at 317-232-1646 or www.in.gov/dnr/historic.



Communities Building Community

with
Judy O'Bannon



by Jonathan Swain

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has!"

For television producer Dave Forsell, the development of Independence Park in **Greenwood** is a real life illustration of these words from anthropologist Margaret Meade. It was in Greenwood where he found a small group of people who initially came together with a vision for a "boundless park" where all children, no matter what their physical abilities, could play side-by-side.

Forsell's story on Independence Park is just one of many from throughout Indiana featured weekly on the new TV series *Communities Building Community*. Produced by WFYI TV Channel 20, *Communities Building Community* turns the cameras on the many ways Hoosiers are working to strengthen their communities throughout the state and hopefully inspiring more actions, initiatives and programs.

More than a year in the works, *Communities Building Community* premiered on WFYI, the Central Indiana PBS affiliate, in late March and is already airing on other PBS stations throughout the state. Each week, host and correspondent First Lady Judy O'Bannon, takes viewers into local communities to see and hear the inspirational stories and the results of ideas and partnerships put into action.

Now well into the first season, each show of the *Communities Building Community* series looks at a different aspect of community building, from education and the arts, to initiatives that reach across cultural boundaries and faith-based programs. One show even takes viewers to other parts of the world where Hoosiers are actively working as part of the global community.

Through the regular segment, *Focus on Philanthropy*, viewers also develop a better understanding of the important role of philanthropy in the success of community initiatives. Each week, O'Bannon sits down with people, including individual philanthropists and foundation staff members, to hear how grants and other philanthropic gifts are being used. Additionally, viewers get insight into the many avenues available for philanthropic giving, and the motivations for doing so.

Another key component of *Communities Building Community* is outreach beyond the series itself. Currently, the show's website includes information on the organizations and stories featured each week, as well as links to other resources and ideas related to that individual show's focus.

Visit www.indiana2016.org to find out when the show airs in your community, find links to resources and organizations that might interest you, and even to watch some of the shows online.

The series is a unique partnership between Indiana 2016, WFYI, the Indiana Grant-makers Alliance and Indiana's community foundations. Funding support comes from the Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis, the Indianapolis Foundation, the Efroymson Fund, the Indiana Association of United Ways, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Owsley Brown II Family.

Indiana Leadership Summit



On The Circle

by Scott T. Massey

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Indiana Humanities Council conducted the 2003 Indiana Leadership Summit on the Circle in Indianapolis May 13-15. The Summit convened over 400 leaders from government, business, education, and the nonprofit sectors from 42 communities around the state. Over 50 nationally renowned speakers and 33 corporate sponsors participated in the Summit.

Leaders explored "The Next Indiana: The Urgency for Change." Like the Governor's new Energize Indiana initiative and the First Lady's "Communities Building Communities" initiative, the Summit sought to provide ideas for strategies and actions to strengthen Indiana communities and to build a dynamic future for the state.

The theme of the Summit is the result of nearly a year of planning with leaders from around Indiana. The advice of a statewide Summit Steering Committee, the research conducted by *The Indianapolis Star* and the findings of eight Community Forums conducted by the Humanities Council around the state all point to a growing sense of urgency to find leadership for positive change in Indiana.

Michael Porter, the world's foremost economic strategist, opened the Summit on May 13 with a discussion of "regional clusters" and other sources of competitive advantage. The next day featured a look at how to strengthen "human capital" by linking leadership, education and culture. The Summit's third major topic explored the critical, positive roles of government, business and nonprofits in supporting a strong agenda for Indiana's future. Along with these topics, speakers addressed the moral requirements of leadership; how to lead change effectively at the state and local levels; and globalization and the Middle East. Governor O'Bannon, Mayor Bart Peterson of Indianapolis and Senators Lugar and Bayh addressed the Summit.

With Governor Frank O'Bannon, the Council launched a prestigious, new statewide award to promote rising leaders. Called the Governor's Award for Tomorrow's Leaders, the award acknowledges the excellence and achievement of leaders (19-29 years of age) who have already achieved success as business leaders, elected officials, nonprofit leaders or educational entrepreneurs. Twelve leaders, representing 10 counties and all sectors were recognized in the inaugural year of this award by the Governor and the Humanities Council.

The Indiana Leadership Summit is an ongoing program of the Indiana Humanities Council designed to help create a growing, dynamic, inclusive and visionary leadership base for Indiana in business, government, education and the nonprofit sectors. The Summit is a program of the Indiana Humanities Council, presented in partnership with the Stanley K. Lacy Leadership Association.

Review of the 2003 Summit and planning for next steps and the 2004 Summit are now underway. If you would like to be added to the mail list for the Summit, please email your contact information (name, address, phone, and fax) to Steve Borchers at sborche@iupui.edu.



FROGS TEACH STUDENTS

by Wil Myers

Learning from frogs. That's what seventh graders from Indian Creek Middle School in Johnson County do each spring.

The condition of the frogs indicates the degree of environmental stress. In the interdisciplinary project, developed by educators Joe Lesko and Christine Somers, students count, identify, and examine frogs that they collect on the property of local community members. They look for any irregularities and send the results to the North American Reporting Center for Amphibian Malformations.

You don't have to be a scientist to help out—anyone can participate in this investigation. "Everyone in Trafalgar knows about it and is more than willing to donate time or resources," Somers explains. The impact of hands-on education, she continues, "is positive because the students can see the relationship between real jobs and technology."

Through these hands-on experiences, the school and community find new ways to work together, new ways of understanding their environment and new ways of preparing for the future—they are building community.

And what have the frogs told us about Johnson County's environment? Somers reported that Johnson County's environment is "fairly healthy."

See for yourself

Log onto our website at www.indiana2016.org to view slideshows prepared by the IU School of Informatics and Information Technology at Purdue (ITaP). While you're online, feel free to download the handbook distributed to teachers at *Indiana's Einsteins*.

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foot downward plunge of Benedict Mountain. To help the prince survive the Great Eggscape, teams designed and constructed a safe landing area, a boat to propel him across the moat and a wheeled vehicle that would be "egg safe" as it rolled down its tree lined path.

The students came up with dozens of different ways to use common household items provided to prevent their eggs from going whites over yolk. However, they soon recognized that they were actually working with scientific principles. With the assistance of college students from Purdue University and Rose-Hulman at each station, teams incorporated the Scientific Method, scientific principles, creative problem solving

and of course – good, old-fashioned teamwork.

And, where were the teachers all of this time? Just a room away, teachers and chaperones were introduced to some of the most amazing science programs and resources available in Indiana. Mad Science, the Science Education Foundation of Indiana (sponsors of the state Science and Engineering Fair), FIRST Robotics, NASA Specialized Center of Research and Training (NSCORT) and Purdue's Physics on the Road each gave exciting and entertaining presentations. Representatives from

Brownsburg Challenger Learning Center, IUPUI's Teacher's Resource Center, the Center for Earth and Environmental Science, DNR's Go FishIN, Project WET, Hook's Discovery and Learning Center, Indiana Destination Imagination, Camp Invention, Science Works from the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Shared Information Services, IDEM and Purdue's outreach programs EPICS and CERIAS interacted with teachers to answer questions and provide information about utilizing such services in their own schools.

First Lady Judy O'Bannon addressed the group about the importance of "energizing Indiana" and the role of innovations, technology and teamwork that will be necessary for Indiana to grow into the future. Special guest, former NASA astronaut Guy Gardner, also attended the event keeping the excitement level out of this world throughout the day.

